



CARRIAGE USED BY HINDU LADIES.

Often, when riding or walking in the open country, I have come across a group of natives watching a snake, which they would beg me to kill. I think it must be owing to the regard the Hindus have for life that birds and other animals in India are so tame. The pretty, little, grey squirrels, which closely resemble the chipmunk, run and play about the verandas of the bungalow. Often when sitting reading have I seen one come close up to my feet, jump on to the table on which my arm rested, and scamper off with a biscuit. Hoopoes, minas, green parrots, blue-jays, etc., frequently build in the eaves of the houses. The sparrow is also there in great force, but he has many enemies to keep him in check, notably the crow, who may be often seen gobbling up the young sparrow. The

Indian crow is a crafty and mischievous bird, constantly on the watch to steal into your rooms and carry away such like trifles as letters, pins, gloves, etc., to build its nest; it will also sample your breakfast if given the chance. In India the kitchen is generally in a small building a short distance from the dwelling-house; when food is required it is brought to the dining-room in a large tray, which the servant carries on his head; when passing in the daytime from the cook-house to the bungalow, he is obliged to flourish a stick over the tray to ward off the hungry crows and kites, that circle and wheel out of arm's reach, ready to swoop down on the tempting dishes.

*John Ross.*

